

FramingHAM Circuit

February, 1987 Vol. 54, No. 2

Let's try it again: Tom Frenaye will pay visit

Although ARRL Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, was due to speak to us last month, a scheduling snafu prevented his appearance. But, he will appear in February where he will discuss some of the issues facing the Amateur community in the future.

You see, there are a number of crucial icing us in the next few years and one of the most pressing is the need for attracting young people to our hobby so that it is protected. That is one of the reasons the League supports Novice enhancement, which is likely to be one of the topics of the evening.

Another likely topic will probably be whether the League will take up issuing special event or preferred callsign licenses. The FCC is talking about the possibility of turning all callsign issuance to a commercial body and the ARRL has come forth with its own ideas. The general idea would be the FCC would issue the basic call which remains yours and the League would issue a special or preferred callsign. You would be able to operate under both, although your official one would still be the FCC's.

Still other likely topics of discussion might be threats to our frequency spectrum and how the League is combatting them, as well as outright intruders and bootleggers who are the subject of ongoing vigilance.

As you can see, then, February is shaping up as an important meeting, so it's a good idea to circle Feb. 5 when the meeting will be held at the club's headquarters in the Danforth Museum on Lexington Street at Union Avenue, Framingham. The meeting will begin about 7:30 and parking is available next door in the parking garage.

Remember, use of the patch requires paid up repeater dues. See Dick, WA1KUG

Banquet committee searches for site

The Banquet Committee has looked into a number of sites for the annual banquet and has been greeted with the nearly universal answer that restaurants don't take reservations for Friday or Saturday.

One exception, at the time of the search, was White's Corner, Southboro, near the Framingham line. The restaurant agreed, when first asked, that it could handle a Friday night or Saturday banquet. (It later turned out otherwise, but White's still looks like the front-runner).

One thing that the committee, Lew Nyman, K1AZE, and Marc Stern, N1BLH, would like to make clear is that it is still open to suggestions and welcomes any club member's input on the banquet. At the moment, it looks as if it will be held sometime in late March.

The committee will meet again and further information will be provided when available.

Treasurer Dick Marshall, WA1KUG, gave the treasurer's report and reminded members to pay dues.

And, Education Committee Chairman Ed Weiss, W1NXC, gave a report on the education committee and the upcoming classes. Registration was to be on Jan. 10 and classes were to begin on Jan. 17. An instructors' meeting was to have been held Jan. 10.

Marc Stern, N1BLH, activities officer and local emergency coordinator, had a number of announcements to make. First, he noted, the monthly ARES meeting was to continue on the second Wednesday of each month. There was to be an ARES meeting at State Civil Defense headquarters on Jan. 17 at 9 a.m. This meeting was scheduled by Barry Porter, KB1PA, section emergency coordinator.

In other ARES matters, there was to be a communications drill sometime February in which FARA members can take part in. Bob Chin, WB1FHT, has been appointed as an assistant emergency coordinator and liaison with American Red Cross.

In other business, the annual club picnic was discussed and a consensus seemed to favor holding the picnic at someone's house as has been done in past years. Another upcoming event is field day and trailer and campers will be needed.

The meeting was followed by two video tapes. One was of the club back in 1933. The other was of Field Day, 1983.

The FramingHAM Circuit is published monthly by the Framingham Amateur Radio Assn., Inc. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month from September to June at the Danforth Museum, Union Avenue and Lexington Street, Framingham, at 7:30 p.m. Club repeater: W1FY/R, 147.150 MHz. Club Station: W1FY. Classes held September to April, Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

Officers

President.....	Burt Shaffer, N1DDO 872-0534
Vice President.....	Don Morse, KA1MLM 881-4188
Secretary.....	Ken Horton, KA1GFN 485-6542
Treasurer.....	Dick Marshall, WA1KUG 877-0563
Activities.....	Marc Stern, N1BLH Club Box
Director-At-Large.....	Lew Nyman, K1AZE 879-7456
Editor.....	Marc Stern, N1BLH Club Box

All officers may be reached at their phone numbers in the roster or via the Club's postal box, 3005, Saxonville Station, Framingham, MA 01701.

From the podium

In the February issue of QST, there was an excellent article concerning our use of the hard-earned ham "ticket". The author, Paula McKnight, N1DNB, headlined her article: "1986: Reaffirming Amateur Radio's Objectives."

If you have not read this article, I think a reminder of our fivefold commitment to ourselves and the public is in order. The FCC rules (Part 97) discuss them in full. They are:

- a. Providing emergency communication.
- b. Contributing to the advancement of the radio art.
- c. Encouragement and improvement of the Amateur Radio Service through rules.
- d. Expansion of the existing reservoir of operators within the Amateur Radio Service.
- e. Enhancement of international goodwill.

Let us, in 1987, rededicate ourselves to these principles, and be ever mindful of our responsibilities of these goals.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who sent expressions of condolence. Your thoughts during this difficult time were truly appreciated.

73,

Burt, N1DDO

If this newsletter reached you late, we're sorry. The heavy snows have slowed the mails to a standstill. Editor

Come one, come all to the banquet

The Framingham Amateur Radio Assn. banquet this year is scheduled for Sunday March 29 at 5 p.m. at White's Corner, Route 9, Eastbound, Southboro. It's located just west of the Framingham line.

Lew, K1AZE, had reported at the last meeting that the banquet was planned for a Friday evening, but, the restaurant management later stated they couldn't handle a group of our size on Friday night. This statement was made despite the fact that an employee had earlier said the restaurant could.

There will be no band this year as a result of a vote at the November meeting; however, the food and camaraderie should be great.

Get your reservations in as soon as possible because space is limited.

See the flyer in this issue for further details.

Some sensible advice about repeater use

By Ed Weiss, W1NXC

Although there are many sources of so-called correct operation on repeaters, not everyone pays attention and in the interest of maintaining a professional and smoother operation on our local 147.750/150 machine, here are a few friendly and hopefully helpful hints:

1. Give the repeater a chance to get on line before you rattle off your call sign. This is a commo problem even with old hands on the repeater. Press the push-to-talk switch and then wait a second or two before speaking.
2. Pause between transmissions in order to give someone else a chance to call—there is a five-second interval after the courtesy tone before the repeater shuts down.
3. ID correctly! It is not necessary to identify the other station. The FCC is interested in identifying the talker, not the listener. Short, back and forth transmissions, in which each operator gives two call signs are tiresome to hear and quite unnecessary. Equally tiresome (and unnecessary) is the phrase, "for ID," following your callsign. It sounds as if you think there is someone monitoring you with a stopwatch, or just waiting for you to forget the id altogether!

4. Give honest signal reports. Telling someone "you are 40 percent full quieting (whatever that means), is less helpful than simply saying: "Your signal is very noisy and I am copying you with great difficulty."

5. Pay attention to the courtesy beep. Phrases, such as "back to you, go ahead, over, etc., may be useful in certain circumstances, but the beep does this for you when it sounds. When it sounds, it's your turn to transmit.

Don't abuse the autopatch. It is a privilege and continued misuse could result in loss of this feature. It is primarily designed for emergency/urgent communications. Calling your boss to announce that you are going to be five minutes late for work, or dialing up your girlfriend (or boyfriend), calling home to tell the cook to "put on the steak," etc.; none of these qualify as urgent or emergency communication.

To sum things up—courtesy, cooperation and a knowledge of basic repeater operating practice go together. Remember, a "lid" on 2 meters is as bad, if not worse, than on one of the low bands. Keep in mind there are new operators joining our ranks every day. Let's set a good example!.

Are you active?

(Editor's note: While reading this month's "WorldRadio", we came across a poem which aptly states N1DDO's concern about club members becoming active in things. But, rather than telling you what it said, we present it for your consideration:)

Are you an Active Member,

The kind that would be missed?

Or are you just contented

To be on the list?

Do you attend the meetings,

And mingle with the flock?

Or do you stay at home

To criticize and mock?

Do you take an active part

To help the work along?

Or are you just satisfied

To only just belong?

Do you work with your committees

And just right in and mix?

Or leave the work to just a few

And talk about the cliques?

Think this over, member,

*You know right from wrong.
Are you an Active Member,
Or do you just belong.*

(courtesy SCRA newsletter)

Heard 'round the Circuit

Our sympathies and those of the entire club are extended to Burt, N1DDO, and Toby Shaffer, N1DDS, and family on the passing of Burt's mother. Our thoughts are with the Shaffer family in this hour of sorrow. Mrs. Shaffer's passing was especially tragic because it followed so soon on the passing of her husband about six months ago.

There are rumblings that a pre-Field Day party is being planned by some club members. More as the story unfolds.

Have you seen the number of micro-talkies around? The most recent to join the ranks of the micro owners was Carl Getter, W1MIJ. He's the proud owner of a new u2AT.

- Amateur spectrum vulnerable

Between Jan. 27 and March 13, the International Telecommunication Union is holding a WARC in Geneva on high frequency broadcasting. This is the second planning session of the conference, the first being held a few years ago. During the interim period, the various countries were to have submitted their requirements for high frequency broadcasting channels to the ITU.

Many countries have submitted more requirements than can be handled in the presently allocated frequency bands. At this point, it looks impossible that these needs can be filled by the ITU.

There has been some information discussed about developing and adopting a resolution at this conference that would call for a future conference to completely reallocate the high frequency bands.

In the high frequency portion you have primarily the Broadcasting, Amateur and Fixed and Mobile services. A highly placed government official (who asked that he not be named) recently told me that hf broadcasters would be looking for more spectrum since they do not have enough now and "the amateur bands would be extremely vulnerable at a future allocations conference. They could wipe out what was given in (the last WARC) in 1979. The chairman of the U.S. delegation is a lawyer, Mr. Leonard Marx. There is no amateur representation on the delegation. It is a precarious situation."

Also criticized was the fact that at a recent IARU (International Amateur Radio Union) meeting in Buenos Aires—valuable time was spent trying to determine a way to standardize the way QSL cards are filled out rather than addressing the hf broadcasting WARC and its possible detrimental effect on amateur spectrum.

Most ham bands could come under attack since they have international broadcast allocations close to them. The present shortwave broadcast bands (in MHz) are as follows:

120 meter	2.300-2.495
90 meter	3.200-3.500
60 meter	4.700-5.600
49 meter	5.950-6.200
31 meter	9.500-9.980
22 meter	13.60-13.80
19 meter	15.10-15.60
16 meter	17.40-17.90
13 meter	21.45-21.75
11 meter	25.67-26.10

(W5YI Report)

↳ Social Notes

Feb. 5, FARA Meeting

Feb 11, ARES Meeting

March 5, FARA Meeting

DATE: 15 Feb 1987 CLUB: Algonquin Amatuer Radio Club PLACE: Marlboro Middle School EVENT: FLEA MARKET DEALER SETUP: 0800 OPEN TO PUBLIC: 1000 until 1500 ADMISSION: \$1 TABLE PRICES: \$8.00 Res. \$10.00 at door TALK-IN: 146.01/.61 and .52 direct REFRESHMENTS: YES OTHER NOTES: Make checks payable to Algonquin Amatuer Radio Club, Box 258 Marlboro, Mass. 01752. CUT OFF DATE for advanced tables is 07 Feb. The School is at Threshèr Street off Union Ave. Marlboro Mass.

DATE: 15 Feb 1987(SUN) CLUB: YONKERS ARC DEALER SETUP: 0900 OPEN TO PUBLIC: 1000 until 1500 ADMISSION: \$3.00 TABLE PRICES: See notes TAIK-IN: REFRESHMENTS: Unlimited FREE coffee OTHER NOTES: Commission is 10 percent on successful sales up to \$100.00 and 5 percent on remainder. For more info call 914-969-1053

DATE: 28 Feb 1987 CLUB: Northern Vermont PLACE: Milton High School RT7,Milton VT EVENT: FLEA MARKET DEALER SETUP: OPEN TO PUBLIC: 0900 until 1500 ADMISSION: \$2.00 TABLE PRICES: TALK-IN: 147.45/146.85 146.01/146.61 REFRESHMENTS: OTHER NOTES: Admission is free for those under 18. There will be FCC exams. There is also an auction. For more info cal 802-879-6589 in the evenings.